

with white; the upper tail-coverts nearest to the body are greyish white, with slaty black transverse bands; those next the tail are pure white, with transverse bands similarly coloured but narrower; the upper surface of the tail is white, crossed by narrow dark grey bars, twelve in number on the central, and fourteen on the exterior pair of rectrices; below the lowest of these transverse bars are three subterminal bands, the uppermost white, the next and broadest black, and the third grey, the tip of the tail being white.

The checks, chin, and throat are a dark slate-colour, as is also the region of the crop, with the exception, as regards the latter, of irregular white tips to some of the feathers; the breast, abdomen, flanks, tibiæ, and under tail-coverts, as also the under wing-coverts and axillary plumes, are all alternately barred with transverse markings of white and slate-colour, this barring is finer and less coarse on the tibiæ than elsewhere, and is most regular on the under wing-coverts, the white predominates on the under tail-coverts, and the slate-colour on the breast; but it is there mingled, on many of the feathers, with rich rufous, and these particoloured feathers are only slightly tipped with white; a faint tinge of rufous also appears on some of the feathers of the abdomen.

XIV.—*Note on an unusually rufescent Example of Archibuteo hemiptilopus, Blyth.* By JOHN HENRY GURNEY.

A SPECIMEN of *Archibuteo hemiptilopus** having been lately added to the Norwich Museum, which presents a much more rufous aspect of plumage than any example which had previously come under my notice, I think it desirable to place some particulars respecting it on record in the pages of 'The Ibis.'

It was obtained in Thibet in September 1874, and passed into the hands of Mr. Mandelli, and from him, by exchange, into those of my late valued friend Mr. Andrew Anderson, upon whose decease it was acquired by the Norwich Museum.

* I use Mr. Blyth's specific name for this Buzzard for the reason which I have already given in 'The Ibis' for 1876, p. 371.

The sex of this specimen has unfortunately not been recorded ; but the following are its principal measurements :— wing from carpal joint 18·4 inches, tail 10·8, culmen without the cere 1·05, tarsus 3·3, middle toe *s. u.* 1·5.

In coloration and markings this example bears a singular resemblance to some of the more rufous specimens of the North-American *Buteo calurus*, Cassin, for which, but for its plumed tarsi and somewhat longer wings, it might be readily mistaken.

The following is a description of the plumage of this specimen of *Archibuteo hemiptilopus*. The crown of the head and the mantle are dark chocolate-colour, with some feathers on the sides of the crown narrowly, and the feathers of the nape and interseapular region broadly, edged with rich but not very dark rufous ; the tertials are transversely barred with white and dark brown, the latter spreading in some feathers over the outer web to the exclusion of the white ; the secondaries are chocolate-brown, but with the greater part of the exterior portion of the inner web white, the entire feather being crossed by transverse bars of dark brown ; but both the secondaries and the darker tertials have slight whitish tips ; the primaries are dark grey on the upper portion of the outer web, but black towards the tip on both webs, the basal portion of the inner web is white, and is separated by a smaller brown space from the black tip ; the upper tail-coverts are transversely barred with dark chocolate and rufous in alternate but somewhat irregular markings ; the central pair of rectrices have the sides dark brownish grey, shading gradually into white towards the centre of the feather, which has a white shaft, the end of the feather being tinged with bright rufous for about two inches from the tip upwards, and both webs being crossed with eleven irregular transverse bars of dark greyish brown ; the lateral rectrices are similarly coloured and marked, except that the inner webs are white, tinged with rufous towards the tip, and there only, on that web, exhibiting the transverse brown bars.

The sides of the head are dark slaty brown, with slight indistinct rufescent shaft-marks ; the chin is white, inter-

spersed with dark brown feathers, tinged with rufous; the upper breast is bright but not dark rufous, interspersed with dark brown shaft-marks to each feather, and a similarly coloured irregular central spot on most of them; between the upper and lower breast are a few white feathers, slightly tinged with rufous towards the tip, and sparsely speckled with dark brown; the lower breast and abdomen are transversely marked with alternate bars of rufous and dark brown; but on some of the feathers whitish bars appear in the place of the rufous ones; the feathers of the flank are dark brown, tipped and in some cases crossed also with rufous; the tibial and tarsal feathers are dark brown slightly tipped with rufous; the under tail-coverts are white tinged with rufous, especially towards the ends of the feathers; the axillary plumes are rufous brown with irregular white transverse bars; the under wing-coverts are dark brown, but the smaller feathers are broadly edged, some with white, but others with rufous, the latter preponderating.

XV.—*Notes on Collections of Birds sent from New Caledonia, from Lifu (one of the Loyalty Islands), and from the New Hebrides by E. L. Layard, C.M.G. &c. By H. B. TRISTRAM, F.R.S.*

(Plates IV.—VI.)

I HAVE recently received from Mr. Layard very interesting collections from the above-named localities, comprising the types of many of his new species, on which I propose to offer a few remarks, reviewing the collections in geographical order.

From New Caledonia I find :—

1. *FALCO MELANOGENYS*, Gould.

This Mr. Gurney pronounces a typical specimen. It is the one referred to by Mr. Layard (*Ibis*, 1878, p. 252).

2. *UROSPIZIAS APPROXIMANS* (V. & H.).

Three specimens from New Caledonia, all marked female. One in very full adult plumage, with close and rich transverse barrings on all the lower surface, the upper surface very dark and uniform; the barrings on the rectrices almost oblite-